IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

C. Chappell et al.   Examiner:

Serial No. 09/903,334   Art Group: 2161

Filing Date: 7/10/2001

For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING BANDWIDTH ALLOCATION MESSAGES**

OIPE JC184 OCT 0 1 2001 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 0007 at page 2 with the following:

--Figures 3a and 3b show a schematic diagram illustrating an

encapsulation of upstream bandwidth allocation messages

encapsulated within a downstream management message according to

an embodiment of the present invention.--

At page 7 continuing to page 8, please replace paragraph 0031

with the following:

--Figures 3a and 3b show a schematic diagram illustrating

upstream bandwidth allocation elements encapsulated within a

downstream management message according to an embodiment of the

present invention. According to an embodiment of the CM 106 shown

in Figure 2, the downstream physical communication circuit 124 may

transmit a data stream 202 to the downstream MAC circuit 128 in